

Appl. No. 10/255,216
Amdt. Dated November 19, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of generating electricity which comprises:

- a) providing a gas stream that contains water as a source of hydrogen atoms; ~~atom~~
~~containing compounds;~~
- b) applying heat to the gas stream at a rapid rate sufficient to:
 - i) produce hydrogen ~~ions and free electrons from the source of~~ hydrogen atoms
from the water;
 - ii) transform the produced hydrogen ~~ions~~ atoms into protons and free electrons;
- and
- iii) induce a sustained chain reaction, including nuclear reactions; and
- c) collecting the free electrons as a source of electricity.

Claim 2 (Original): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, further comprising:
terminating the application of heat to the gas stream after the sustained chain reaction,
including nuclear reactions are induced; and

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allowing the sustained chain reaction, including nuclear reactions to continue in reactive species of the gas stream.

Claim 3 (Original): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein the nuclear reactions include nuclear fusion.

Claim 4 (Original): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein the gas stream comprises one of air and a flue gas.

Claim 5 (Original): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein the rapid heating performed in step a) is performed by using at least one of a flame generator, a laser beam, an electric arc and a microwave generator.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a chemical reactant species into the gas stream prior to applying heat to the gas stream and collecting a chemical reaction product produced from the added chemical reactant species.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, further comprising recovering heat produced from the sustained chain reaction.

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Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein ~~the step of applying heat to the gas stream at a rapid rate produces protons from the source of hydrogen atoms, and~~ the method further comprises reacting the collected free electrons with the protons away from an area where the chain reaction occurs.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of generating electricity according to claim 8 further comprises rapidly cooling the gas stream in a cold reservoir to facilitate reacting the collected free electrons with the protons to form hydrogen.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity, which nuclear reactor comprises: a heat reservoir at an upstream side; a cold reservoir at a downstream side; a connecting pipe connected between the heat reservoir and the cold reservoir; chamber having an upstream side and a downstream side; a gas inlet at the upstream side; a gas outlet at the downstream side; means for flowing a stream of gas through the ~~chamber~~ reactor from the upstream side to the downstream side; means for heating the gas stream flowing through said ~~chamber~~ reactor at a sufficient rate to cause components of said stream of gas to undergo nuclear reactions and produce free electrons; a magnet and a conductive collector for collecting and removing freed electrons from the reactor.

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Claim 11 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, wherein the means for heating the gas stream flowing through said ~~chamber~~ reactor comprises a first co-current means for heating the gas stream and a second countercurrent means for heating the gas stream with the first means for heating the gas stream being upstream of the second means for heating the gas stream.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, further including means to re-introduce the removed electrons into a downstream portion of the reactor so that the re-introduced electrons can react with protons to form hydrogen in the cold reservoir. ~~downstream of the means for heating the gas stream.~~

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, further including a heat exchanger for recovering heat from the reactor, the heat exchanger being located downstream of the heat reservoir. ~~means to heat the gas stream.~~

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, wherein the means to heat the gas stream flowing through the reactor ~~chamber~~ comprises at least one of a flame generator, a laser beam, an electric arc and a microwave generator.

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Claim 16 (Original): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 11, wherein both the first and second means to heat the gas flowing through the reactor chamber comprises flame generators which direct flames toward each other.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, further comprising means to inject a chemical species for increasing nuclear reaction activities into the stream of gas flowing through the reactor chamber.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A nuclear fuel cell that comprises: a reactor chamber having an upstream side and a downstream side; a gas inlet at the upstream side; a gas outlet at the downstream side; means for flowing a stream of gas through the reactor chamber from the upstream side to the downstream side; means for heating the gas stream flowing through said reactor chamber at a sufficient rate to cause components of said stream of gas to undergo nuclear reactions and produce protons and free electrons; and ~~means~~ a cold reservoir at a downstream portion of the reactor for cooling ~~a portion of reactor downstream of the means for heating the~~ gas stream so as to recombine electrons and protons to form hydrogen.

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Claim 20 (Original): The combination of a nuclear fuel cell according to claim 19, in an internal combustible engine vehicle wherein the hydrogen is used as a fuel in internal combustible engine.

Claim 21 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein the gas stream includes a chemical species and the method further involves rapidly cooling the heated gas stream after step c) in a cold reservoir to effect a change in the chemical species.

Claim 22 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 21, wherein the rapid cooling affects at least one of:

- i) decomposition of NO_x ;
- ii) decomposition of CO_2 ; and
- iii) decomposition of SO_x .

Claim 23 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 6, wherein the chemical reactant comprises limestone and the chemical reaction product comprises lime.

Claim 24 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein the gas stream comprises flue gas that contains H_2S which is dissociated into H_2 and S in step b).

Claim 25 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 1, wherein fuel oil is

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added to the gas stream and the fuel oil is transformed into light hydrocarbons in step b).

Claim 26 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 6, wherein the chemical reactant comprises SO_2 and water and the chemical reaction product comprises H_2SO_4 .

Claim 27 (New): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 19, further comprising means to inject coolant into the cold reservoir to initiate the combination of electrons and protons to form hydrogen.

Claim 28 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 26, wherein SO_2 is oxidized to SO_3 by a high rate of temperature increase due to the nuclear reaction and steam is injected to react with the SO_3 to form H_2SO_4 .

Claim 29 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 28, the temperature of the injected steam is equal or higher to the temperature of the SO_3 containing gas flow at point of injection to form H_2SO_4 mist in the reactor.

Claim 30 (New): A method of generating electricity according to claim 29, wherein the H_2SO_4 mist is condensed to H_2SO_4 liquid to a temperature of about 250°F and collected.

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Claim 31 (New): A nuclear reactor that produces electricity according to claim 10, wherein the cross sectional area of heat reservoir is at least fifteen times that of connecting pipe, the cross sectional area of cold reservoir is equal to that of heat reservoir, and the cross sectional area of connecting pipe is the same as that of an incoming pipe to the reactor.